



# Wyoming Livestock Board Newsletter

State of Wyoming

Volume 17, Issue 2



## Bison on the Reservation

“Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam.” The words were written some 130 years ago when the buffalo still had free range over much of the western United States. Buffalo numbers were staggering - reportedly hundreds of thousands of the animals roamed the plains. By the late 1880's the buffalo's numbers dipped to an all-time low of less than 1,000. Killing for sport and the use of hides alone took its toll on the once magnificent herds.

Today, the buffalo are makin a comeback, across the U.S. for many reasons. Current numbers in Yellowstone National Park (YNP) are estimated between 2700 and 2900 animals that are free-roaming around the park. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

(MTFWP) in a joint project with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) also runs a herd of 100 bison that have been in quarantine for the past 3-4 years, and are considered Brucellosis free. These animals, originally destined for slaughter when captured leaving YNP, were placed in quarantine and have now been tested for brucellosis between 12 and 15 times.

Bison meat was the primary meat staple for the Native Americans, as well as the primary source of “material” to make clothing and shelter. The bones were often used as tools. The bison were also seen as “spiritual beings”, capable of sustaining life and spirit. Many tribes, including the

Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming migrated with the bison year round. However, when the tribe was placed on the Wind River Reservation in 1878, their ability to move freely with the buffalo was significantly hindered and their lifestyle was dramatically changed.

Although still residing within the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation, the Northern Arapaho Tribe has petitioned to take possession of the 40 quarantine release qualified buffalo from the MTFWP/APHIS Brucellosis free herd. Reasons given for wanting the animals to reside within the boundaries of the reservation include: future cultural and preservation

Continue Page 6

## Brand Recording

The brand recording unit has completed a very successful 2009 brand renewal. We renewed approximately 80% of the 5,130 brands due for renewal. The next brand renewal will be in 2011.

The success of the 2009 brand renewal was a combined effort by all the Wyoming Livestock Board Staff

including our Brand Inspectors. With the extra effort made by Wyoming Livestock Board staff we were able to update addresses and send renewal notices to producers who had moved.

We are proud to announce our two new brand recorders. As of February 2, 2009 Liz Schnackel and Sarah Fry

joined the brand recording unit. Paula Bivens and Renae Krakow have accepted new positions within the Agency.

Thank you,  
Connie Hinesley  
Brand Recording Unit

### Inside this issue:

<i>Brand Inspection/ Animal Health</i>	2
<i>Herd Plan Cards</i>	2
<i>Brucellosis Testing MT Cattle</i>	2
<i>Winter Ticks</i>	3
<i>NE Trich Regulations</i>	3
<i>Trich by the Numbers</i>	4
<i>Chapter 2 Rules and New Legislation</i>	5
<i>New Brucellosis Legislation and Rules</i>	5
<i>Feral Livestock Act Passes</i>	5
<i>Intentional Feeding of Elk</i>	6
<i>Livestock Numbers Down</i>	7
<i>Jill Graves</i>	7
<i>New Board Members</i>	8

Newsletter Created by:  
Lindsay Johnson  
Animal Health Specialist

## Brand Inspection/Animal Health working together for the sake of the agency.

One of my goals for this agency has been to reunite the bond between Animal Health and Brand Inspection. I personally would like to thank those inspectors who have called in the past few weeks to either confirm information from the Animal Health Unit, assist the Animal Health Unit in imported live-stock research, or assisted with our quarantine list. Both units are working well together and we have seen some positive outcomes from this communication.

Past experience has shown me that one cannot function without the other and I am seeing that more and more as we pull together in our efforts to communicate with each other to create a stronger agency.

On May 5, 2009, we will come together as an agency in Douglas, Wyoming for the day. It will be a day for re-introduction of our board members, office staff and field personnel. If you are an employee of the Wyoming Live-


stock Board, we ask that you clear your calendar on this day in order to attend. For more information call 307-777-6442.

By: Paula Bivens

## Wyoming Brucellosis Herd Plan Cards

The Riverton Field Office would like to introduce the new Herd Plan Card. After a producer sends in their current signed herd plan, they receive a small laminated business card with their basic herd plan information. Cattle producers can conveniently carry these cards with their test requirements and herd plan expiration dates on them in their wallets. The herd plan cards will be handy for both brand inspectors and law enforcement when investigating herd plan requirement compliance.

By: Sara Lowe

Wyoming Individual Brucellosis Herd Plan	
Name:	
Address:	
City/Zip:	
Phone:	
WY Ranch #:	
WY Brand #:	
Wyoming Livestock Board Brucellosis Field Office 610 Fairgrounds Road Riverton, WY 82501 (307) 857- 4140 fax (307) 857-6380	
Test Requirement:	
Herd Plan Expiration Date:	
The producer named on the front of this card has agreed to the terms outlined in their Individual Brucellosis Herd Plan, and agrees to adhere to the Identification, Vaccination and Test Requirements outlined in their Herd Plan. They agree to notify the WLSB office of the date and results of any Brucellosis tests required in their Plan.	
Assistant State Veterinarian Signature	Date

## Brucellosis Testing Montana Cattle

Veterinarians and cattle producers seem to be a bit confused about brucellosis testing for Montana cattle and who will pay for it when the Montana cattle are tested in, or are being moved into Wyoming. Hopefully this article will clear things up some.

Because Montana is a Brucellosis "Class A" state, most Montana origin cattle that are sexually intact and over 18 months of age must be tested prior to change of ownership or interstate movement. Under certain circumstances, and with prior approval only, we will allow MT cattle to travel into

WY to be tested here. But, all testing of MT cattle must be done at the owner's expense. The Wyoming Livestock Board WILL NOT pay for testing Montana cattle. We will not pay for the veterinarian's expense in drawing the samples nor will we pay any laboratory fees.

The Wyoming Legislature has appropriated Wyoming state funds to provide for brucellosis testing (both sampling and laboratory) of Wyoming cattle. These funds can NOT be used to test cattle that originate out-of-state. Most veterinarians charge between \$3.00 and

\$6.00 to take a blood sample and the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory charges \$3.00/sample to test out-of-state cattle for brucellosis. Montana producers need to realize that they will be responsible for these fees if using a Wyoming veterinarian or the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. The Wyoming Livestock Board will continue to cover the cost of sampling and Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory testing costs for Wyoming origin cattle.

By: Walter Cook, DVM

## Winter Ticks in NE and SD

The South Dakota and Nebraska state veterinarians report seeing cases of winter tick (*Dermacentor albipictus*) in both cattle and deer. In some cases the tick loads were very severe and have caused significant death loss. We have not heard about any cases in Wyoming this year, but wanted to alert our producers and veterinarians. There have been cases of this tick affecting moose in Wyoming in the past. This parasite is NOT on the reportable disease list, but we'd like to hear about it if it is becoming a problem so we can alert surrounding producers and veterinarians. Below are some treatment options offered by Roberto Cortinas, DVM, PhD, Assistant Professor, Entomology and

Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

1. Although ivermectin will reduce the tick numbers eventually, it will not act as a quick knock-down treatment. Ivermectin will interfere with maturation of immatures, female production of eggs, and egg maturation and is probably a better preventative for the fall.

2. For quick-knock down, sprays and pour-ons should be used. Organophosphates (Chlorpyrifos, Dichlorvos, Coumaphos, Tetrachlorovinphos, etc.), pyrethroids (Permethrin, Lambda-

cyhalothrin, Cyfluthrin (CyLence), Cypermethrin, etc.), macrocyclic lactones (Eprinomectin (Ivomec Eprinex pour-on), Moxidectin (Cydectin pour-on) and amitraz (Tactic) are the best bets to get the tick populations down quickly.

3. Withdrawal times will depend on the compound and method of application.

By: Dr. Walt Cook

## Nebraska's Trichomoniasis Regulations

The Wyoming Livestock Board has received several notices for non-compliance health certificates issued by Wyoming Veterinarians from Nebraska. These non-compliances have mainly concerned Nebraska's Trichomoniasis regulations.

### Nebraska has regulations for both breeding males and females.

The following statement must appear on the health certificate for breeding bulls:

"The bull(s) represented on this CVI are not from a known positive T.foetus herd and have had three consecutive official negative T. foetus culture tests which were at least a week apart; or one negative PCR test within 30 days prior to importation, and there has been no breeding activity since the first culture test or the PCR test."

One or more of the five following statements must appear for breeding females:

"The heifers listed on this CVI are known virgin heifers."

"Heifers listed on the CVI were exposed for their first breeding only to a known

negative T. foetus bull or artificially inseminated, and are not yet 120 days pregnant."

"Cows or heifers listed on this CVI are at least 120 days pregnant."

"The cows listed on this CVI did not originate from a known positive T.foetus herd, have a calf at side, and have not had any exposure to known positive T.foetus bull(s) or bull(s) of unknown T. foetus status since calving."

"The cows listed on this CVI have had no exposure to other than known negative T. Foetus bulls since parturition."

All of the statements came from the Nebraska's Bureau of Animal Industry Animal Imports website. The full Trichomoniasis Import Order is available there along with the Trichomoniasis Affidavit.

Website: <http://agr.ne.gov/division/bai/bai.htm>

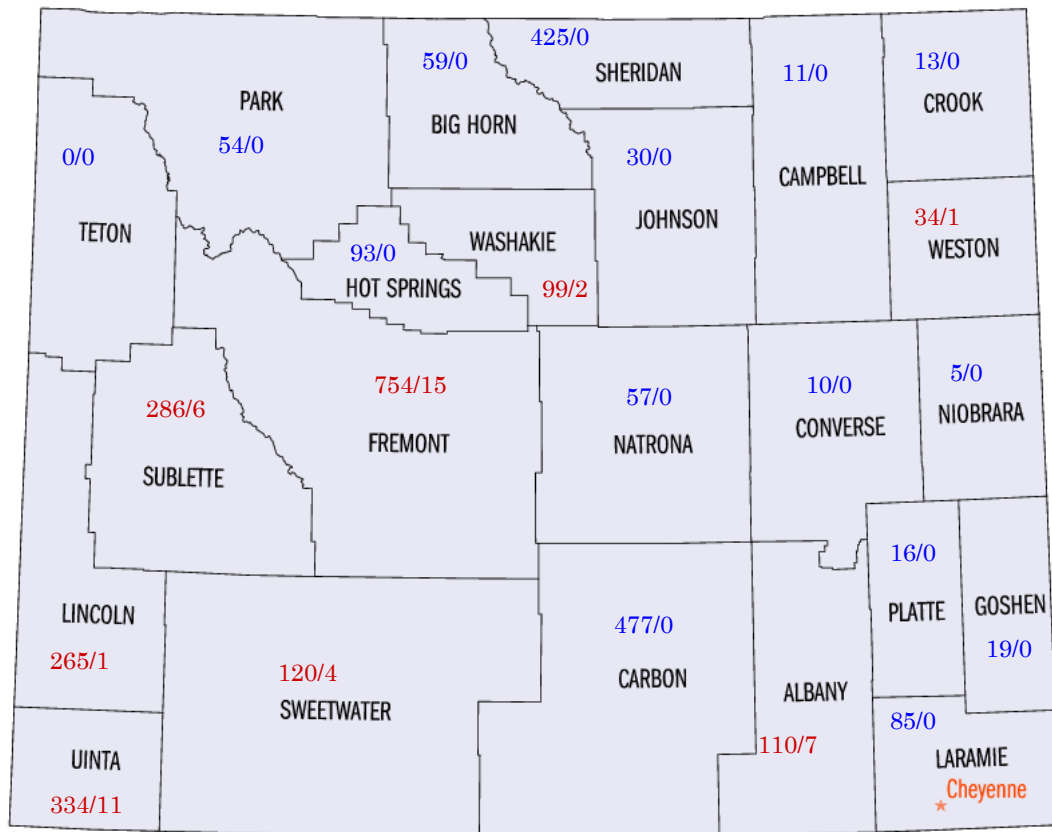
Please take a look at the website!

By: Lindsay Johnson

### ***Remind to all Veterinarians!***

*When issuing a COVHI to another state, it is your responsibility to check that state's import regulations.*

# Trichomoniasis by the Numbers



September 1, 2008 through March 19, 2009

First number in boxes on map indicates total number bulls tested in the county, second number indicates the number Positive out of that total.

Positive Trich Cases are in Albany, Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Washakie and Weston counties.

Total number bulls tested in State of Wyoming: 3,356 Head  
 Number bulls tested negative: 3,309 Head  
 Number bulls tested positive: 47 Head  
 Number bulls certified clean after 3 tests: 208 Head

Subsequent positive bulls after initially tested neg:  
 Positive on 2<sup>nd</sup> test, after negative on 1<sup>st</sup> 13 Head  
 Positive on 3<sup>rd</sup> test, after negative on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 Head

By: Lindsay Johnson

## Chapter 2 Rules and New Legislation

The WLSB will be reviewing public comments on the proposal changes to the Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules at its meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have been operating under emergency Brucellosis rules since August of 2008 when the western half of Park county was added into the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) where Brucellosis testing is required.

The proposed rules include four main significant changes:

1) Testing at livestock auction markets would be scaled back to require ONLY test eligible female cattle from the DSA to be tested at any Wyoming livestock

auction market.

2) The identification requirement for female cattle statewide would continue, but the age requirement would change from 18 months and older (current) to 12 months of age and older requiring female cattle to be identified with board approved identification tags. Orange brucellosis vaccination tags, silver USDA APHIS tags and green Wyoming tags issued by the WLSB are all considered official ID.

3) Female cattle originating within the DSA that leave a feeder/slaughter channel to be used in a Wyoming breeding herd would be required to be tested

prior to leaving the feeding channel.

4) Female cattle sold for breeding purposes that originate within the DSA would be required to be Brucellosis tested within 30 days prior to change of ownership. This would apply to any age female cattle sold specifically for breeding purposes.

The public comment period for these rules ends March 30<sup>th</sup>. Depending on what action the WLSB takes on these rules, they could be signed into effect by mid-April.

By: Dr. Jim Logan

## New Brucellosis Legislation and Rules

The 2009 Wyoming legislature passed two bills that will allow the WLSB to pay for Brucellosis adult vaccination and spaying heifers in the Brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) in addition to, continuing payment for Brucellosis testing. Additional legislation will allow the board to help fund certain Brucellosis Risk Mitigation projects within the DSA. The Designated Surveillance Area includes all of Teton and Sublette counties, the western 1/3 of Fremont county, western 1/2 of Park county and northern 2/3 of Lincoln county.

New rules are required by the legislation to establish parameters for payment for testing, spaying, adult vaccination, and special project funding. Rules have been drafted and will be considered by the board at its April 2 meeting. Brucellosis Risk Mitigation projects could include strategic fencing to prevent elk/bison and cattle commingling, strategic elk or bison feeding authorized by the Wyoming Game and Fish and WLSB to avoid commingling, water source development and emergency feed necessary to comply with a Brucellosis related quarantine.

Wyoming statute 11-19-407 and the 2009 Session laws, chapter 159, section 051, footnote 3 provide the authority and funding for the WLSB to conduct and fund these activities. The board will have between \$100,000 and \$300,000 to apply to these activities and projects depending on budget cuts and the decrease in the number of cattle tested statewide due to the Chapter 2 rule changes discussed in the previous article.

By: Dr. Jim Logan

## Feral Livestock Act Passes

Several times in the last few years, the Wyoming Livestock Board has gotten complaints about feral goats running at large on public or private land. Often, these goats could not be captured, if not, there was nothing we could do about it.

Similar situations have occurred with domestic bison; in some cases, the bison caused damage to livestock or other

property. If the bison could not be captured, we worked with the owners and often got permission to lethally remove the bison. But, the concern remained, what if the owner did not allow us to lethally remove the bison? In that case, there was nothing we could do.

During the summer of 2008, I was notified by Dr. Hughes, the Nebraska State Veterinarian that there were feral pigs

within 20 miles of the Wyoming border. Nebraska was killing those pigs and Dr. Hughes was fairly confident they removed them all. But, if they had made it into Wyoming, lethal removal would not have been legal.

Fortunately, the Wyoming Livestock Board now has the authority to lethally remove feral livestock under certain conditions.

Continue Page 6

## Feral Livestock Act Passes Continued

The Wyoming state legislature has passed, and the Governor has signed Chapter 48 (original Senate File 8) “Feral Livestock”. This statute allows the Wyoming Livestock Board Director or the State Veterinarian to declare livestock as feral if they have made a reasonable attempt to locate an owner and either no owner could be identified or once identified, the owner refuses to take possession of the livestock within 5 days. Once declared feral, if the animals are determined to be damaging private property or if they are or suspected to be carrying an infectious disease they may be lethally removed as ordered by the state veterinarian or

director.

Under the statute, “Feral” is a domestic animal that is not under control or cared for by a person and has returned to a wild or semi-wild state. Livestock include those species previously defined in state statute (horses, mules, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, guard animals and any other animal maintained under domestication. Bison are considered livestock unless specifically designated as “wild bison”). Note, the so-called “Wild horses and burros” are specifically protected and can not be lethally removed.

The Wyoming Livestock Board will be-

gin the process of writing rules to administer this statute and those rules will go out for public comment. We certainly hope that we do not need to use this statute very often. Lethal removal of feral livestock is the last option we’ll choose. But, it is good to have the option available if feral animals begin to destroy private property or threaten the health of other animals.

By: Dr. Walt Cook

## Intentional Feeding of Elk banned in the Designated Surveillance Area

When the state of Idaho lost its brucellosis-free status in 2006 it was directly related to a private individual feeding brucellosis infected elk with her cattle; those cattle contracted brucellosis. In Wyoming, there are a few individuals who continue to feed brucellosis infected elk with or close to cattle risking disease transmission.

Beginning July 1, 2009, a person who intentionally feeds elk which results in comingling with cattle in those areas where elk are known to be infected with brucellosis can be issued a citation that will result in a fine and possible jail

time. This is because the state legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Senate Enrolled Act 9 “Intentional feeding of elk”.

This Act does not prohibit normal, accepted agricultural management, or any elk feeding or baiting authorized by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or any feeding of elk outside the Wyoming Livestock Board’s Designated Surveillance Area (DSA). A detailed description of the DSA may be found on the Wyoming Livestock Board website Chapter 2 rules. Briefly, it consists of all or Teton and Sublette counties, Park

county west of Highway 120, Fremont county west of the Wind River Indian Reservation, and Lincoln county north of the Forest Service boundary (near Cokeville).

A first violation is a low misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to 6 months imprisonment; subsequent violations are a high misdemeanors and punishable by fines up to \$10,000 and up to a year imprisonment.

By: Dr. Walt Cook

## Bison on the Reservation Continued

needs of the tribe, ceremonial (specifically the Sun Dance) and traditional purposes, and education for children on the reservation. A long term goal that the tribe has is to use the buffalo meat to assist the reservation’s diabetic population to be healthier.

Public meetings have been held to address concerns from local producers, county commissions, the Wyoming Livestock Board, APHIS and others. The state and federal agencies have met with the tribe to discuss the stipulations of this transaction, as well as to tour the facilities where the bison will

be kept. There are still a few documents that require signatures from involved parties, but at this point the project is moving forward.

The movement of any bison into Wyoming and onto the Wind River Indian Reservation is legal as long as the Wyoming Livestock Board’s Chapter 8 Import Rules and Chapter 2 Brucellosis Rules are followed. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s Chapter 41 Rules designate these 40 head of bison as *livestock*, and any bison that escapes the tribal quarantine pasture or the reservation is under Wyoming

Livestock Board authority, and may be lethally handled at the Wyoming Livestock Board’s (WLSB) discretion.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the WLSB and Northern Arapaho Tribe, as well as one between APHIS and the Tribe is in the process of being finalized. The MOU’s will outline the long-term management strategies for the bison, and must be signed by all parties before the bison may enter Wyoming.

By Betsy Milek and Dr. Jim Logan, WLSB, with special thanks to Dr. Jack Rhyan, APHIS and Rick Wallen YNP

## Livestock Numbers Down

2008 was a relatively good year for grass but a down year for Livestock numbers. Brand inspections for cattle, Sheep and horses were at their lowest level ever. In 2008 cattle inspections were 1,469,801 head, down 8.65 from 2007. Sheep inspections were also down sharply at 331,053, down 24% in one year. Historically, horse inspection numbers are usually stable but horse inspection numbers were down in 2008 to 24,957, a one year drop of 18%.

These numbers reflect a long term slide in livestock numbers that begin in 2000. This trend is probably a reflec-

tion of several factors, including the effects of the long term drought, reduced inventory nationwide, and fundamental changes in the livestock industry.

The livestock Board is currently looking at several strategies to deal with the prospect of permanently reduced livestock numbers. Over the past several years, the Board has reduced full time inspection positions from 64 to 60 positions and part time positions have been reduced from 41 to 38 positions. The Board has also sought to reduce expenditures through reducing miles traveled. Mileage rates were reduced 17% in 2008 from 2007. One of the chal-

lenges the Board faces is that while numbers of livestock are down significantly the demand for livestock inspections is only slightly down. The number of inspection calls also fell in 2008 from 2007 by 3.5%. This indicates that Inspectors are looking at fewer livestock per call.

Thanks to the changes implemented after the 2007 Executive Legislative Brand Task force, the program is currently on firm financial ground. However, if numbers continue to slide, the Board is considering the implement additional changes in the program to keep it viable into the future.

By: Lee Romsa

## Jill Graves - Human Resource/Fiscal

Hello, my name is Jill Graves, and I have been given the opportunity to work as part of the team with the Wyoming Livestock Board in Human Resources and Fiscal administration.

My husband, Josh, and our two girls, Jadea 4.5 and Jessie 3, currently live in Wheatland where my husband is part of a third generation ranching family.

Also being part of a ranching family, growing up in western South Dakota, I was given the basis for the desire and drive that I have for the Livestock Industry today. I am a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in AgBusiness/Finance. I have been fortunate to have gained experience in the Livestock Industry through working with cow calf production and yearling

operation as well as batching feed/nutrition, animal health and procurement in a feedlot setting. Recognizing the importance of being involved with the community, I have served as a past president and vice president of our local Stockgrowers Association, Co-chaired the Ag Day event at Goshen County Fair, and volunteer as an official timer for the Wyoming High School Rodeo Association. I have enjoyed evolvment with and am a life member of the American Quarter Horse Association. Actively enjoying these amazing animals in the atmosphere of showing, the wonderful sport of rodeo as well as the development of a desirable disposition and sound conformation in my personal breeding program.

Experience with the physical handling and the business end of operations gives me a well rounded understanding of what it means to be in many different roles in this industry, and my willingness to learn keeps my eyes open and my interests everlasting.

It gives me great pride to be a part of this agency and would welcome the opportunity to see those I know and have worked with in the past and to meet and see the many other faces of those we work with and those we serve.

By: Jill Graves

**Check us out on the Web:**  
**<http://wlsb.state.wy.us>**

## State of Wyoming

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### The WLSB Staff

Top Left: Doug Leinart, Lindsay Johnson, Connie Hinesley, Anne Iske, Paula Bivens, Dale Bratton

Middle: Renae Krakow, Sonja Haller, Liz Schnackel, Sarah Fry

Front: Dr. Fred Emerich, Director Jim Schwartz, Dr. Walter Cook- Wyoming State Vet.

Not Pictured: Dr. Jim Logan—Assistant State Vet, Lee Romsa, Jimmy Dean Siler and Jill Graves

## Wyoming Livestock Board

### New Board Members

The Wyoming Livestock Board is excited to have three new board members on board. Pat Cullen is from Wheatland, WY and he replaces Donna Wells – Phipps. Brent Larson from Laramie, WY and he replaced Bill Taliaferro. Liz Philp is from Shoshoni, WY and she replaced Phil Marton. We would like to welcome the three new members and Thank Phil, Bill and Donna for all their hard work and being on the board for 6 years.

By: Renae Krakow